



CALIFORNIA FATALITY ASSESSMENT & CONTROL EVALUATION PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

NO SEATBELTS? **A DEADLY MISTAKE!**

The California FACE program has investigated the causes of over 100 workplace deaths in California since 1992. Nine workers have been killed in vehicles because there were no seatbelts or the seatbelts were used the wrong way. Some of these deaths happened in vehicles that had no protection for the occupants if the vehicle rolled over.



BACKHOE OPERATOR KILLED BY OWN BACKHOE

A 46-year old backhoe operator died after being run over by his backhoe. The backhoe had a rollover protective structure (ROPS). The operator was digging a trench above a 10-foot high slope. He was moving the backhoe forward when a front wheel of the backhoe hit a rock. This caused the backhoe to bounce. He tried to regain control. Then he put the backhoe in reverse by mistake. One of the rear wheels hit the previously dug trench. The backhoe bounced again. The operator decided to jump out, and so took off his seatbelt. The operator jumped toward the high side of the slope but rolled and slid down to the bottom. The backhoe traveled back down the slope and ran over him.

- ▶ Many workers believe they can safely jump from a vehicle if a mishap occurs. However, workers often are injured or killed if they try to jump.

WELDER DIES WHEN THROWN FROM CART WITHOUT SEATBELTS OR ROLLOVER PROTECTION

A 49-year old welder died when a forklift struck his electric cart. The welder was riding in a cart driven by a co-worker. A forklift was traveling down the same roadway in the opposite direction. The forklift driver had a partially blocked field of vision because of a large load. He made

an abrupt left turn into the cart while trying to turn down a side road. The cart was spun around. The welder and his co-worker were thrown from the cart. The co-worker received some cuts and bruises. The welder was run over by the forklift. The cart did not have seatbelts or rollover protection.

- ▶ Many workplace vehicles are not required by law or regulation to have seatbelts or rollover protection. However, these vehicles can rollover or eject their passengers if involved in a traffic mishap.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Ensure seatbelts work correctly and are used.
- ▶ Ensure seatbelts (and ROPS where appropriate) are present on vehicles that have the potential for rollovers or crashes.

For more information on proper seatbelt use and rollover protection, please visit the following websites:
www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/dosh1.html (Title 8 Sections 1596, 3653, 3664), www.nhtsa.dot.gov, and www.sae.org.

For complete fatality reports of these or other cases, and information on the California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program, contact the California Department of Health Services, Occupational Health Branch, FACE Program, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1901, Oakland, CA 94612, or visit our website at www.dhs.ca.gov/ohb/ohsep/face.

PLEASE POST

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FACE is a public health program run by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). **FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation."** The purpose of the **FACE** program is to find problems that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.